United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council votes unanimously to enlarge mandate of United Nations Verification Mission in Angola to include electoral division for September elections; urges Angolan parties to agree on fixed date for elections as soon as possible.

+ Secretary-General is informed of Libyan willingness to hand over two persons accused of involvement in destruction of Pan Am flight 103 to League of Arab States; asks Libya for written confirmation that handover will be "a first step" in full compliance with resolution 731 (1992).

+ United Nations Protection Force Commander in Yugoslavia appeals to Yugoslav authorities to end cease-fire violations, after second incident in areas where United Nations personnel are located.

+ Secretary-General appoints Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan of Pakistan as his Special Representative for Western Sahara. He replaces Johannes J. Manz of Switzerland.

+ Secretary-General appeals for voluntary contributions for financing of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus which is in shortfall of $196 million.

+ Executive Board of United Nations Children's Fund begins organizational session in New York.

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The Security Council today voted unanimously to enlarge the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola (UNAVEM II) to include an electoral division to assist the country in the holding of free and fair elections in September 1992, as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report of 3 March. The Council urged the Angolan parties to establish a precise timetable as soon as possible, so that elections can take place at a fixed date.

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The Council took that action by adopting a resolution, in which it underlined the necessity for the United Nations electoral Mission to have the explicit agreement of the two parties to the Peace Accords signed last May -- the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

Members of the Council urged the Angolan parties to comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Peace Accords, including demobilization of their troops without delay; formation of a unified national armed force; effective operation of joint police monitoring units; and extension of the central administration, among other things. They called on the Angolan authorities and parties to finalize political, legal, organizational and budgetary preparations for free and fair multi-parti elections in September and to make resources available for the electoral process.

The Secretary-General urged in his report on the question that the timetable for the implementation of the Peace Accords "not be delayed further" and that all Angolan parties join together in making renewed commitments to the realization of the elections. The "new role" for the United Nations in Angola would be "a daunting challenge", he said, given the devastated condition of the country with regard to lack of infrastructure as well as administrative and political instability.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met yesterday with the Libyan Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ali Ahmed Elhouderi, to discuss the situation concerning the two Libyans accused of involvement in the downing of Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland in 1988.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents today that the Libyan Ambassador had informed the Secretary-General of his country's willingness to hand over the two accused to the League of Arab States. The Secretary-General asked the Ambassador for "confirmation in writing" that the handover would be a "first step" in complying fully and unconditionally with Security Council resolution 731 (1992). Mr. Boutros-Ghali also told the Ambassador that the United Nations would be prepared to cooperate with the League towards that end. If the League and the Libyan Government so wished, he said, the handover could be done in the presence of a United Nations representative.

The Security Council urged in January the Libyan Government immediately to provide a full and effective response to the requests for cooperation in establishing responsibility for the terrorist acts against Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772. It also called on all States to "assist in the apprehension and prosecution of those responsible for this criminal act".

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The Force Commander of United Nations Protection force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar, has issued an urgent appeal to the authorities in Belgrade and Zagreb to take all necessary measures to end

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the cease-fire violations which, he says, have intensified in frequency and seriousness in some areas in recent days.

The Force Commander said today in a statement through a spokesman for UNPROFOR that the continuing cease-fire violations "needlessly prolonged" the suffering of the civilian population and could delay the full deployment of the Force.

The spokesman reported that artillery fire had struck near a hotel in the town of Beli Manastir, in Eastern Slavonia, where a number of Belgian members of the Protection force were staying. No one was injured. The source of the shelling could not be determined by United Nations personnel on the scene, the Spokesman said. The incident followed a similar one in the same area the previous day, when artillery rounds landed close to members of the Russian contingent.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan of Pakistan as his Special Representative for Western Sahara. He will replace Mr. Johannes J. Manz of Switzerland.

Among Mr. Yaqub-Khan's diplomatic assignments, he served as his country's Ambassador to France, Ireland, the United States, Jamaica and Moscow. He was Pakistan's Foreign Minister from 1982 to 1987, and then from 1988 to 1991.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appealed to Governments of all United Nations Member States for voluntary contributions for the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to cover the Force's deficit of $196 million, as of mid-February 1992.

In a letter to all Member States, dated 10 March, the Secretary-General said that, even though the United Nations share is less than a third of the total cost of UNFICYP, receipts continued to fall short of the Organization's share of expenditure. The Secretary-General described it as "most unfair" that the troop-contributing countries should have to absorb "such a disproportionate share" of the cost of UNFICYP.

According to the Secretary-General, only $2.4 million had so far been received for the current mandate period, which ends on 15 June, against projected expenditure estimated at some $15.4 million. The United Nations had only been able to meet the claims of troop-contributing countries up to mid-June 1981 -- a "highly unsatisfactory situation" which must not be allowed to continue, the Secretary-General said.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated further that the vital peace-keeping role of the Force had been unanimously stressed by the Security Council time and again since its establishment in 1964. UNFICYP continued to make an "indispensable contribution" to maintaining calm on the island -- a condition which was

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clearly necessary for his ongoing efforts to negotiate a political settlement, the Secretary-General said.

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The role to be played by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in guiding the agency into a radically changed world order will be the key issue before the Board, under one of several proposals to be taken up at a two-day organizational session that began at Headquarters today. At the session, the Board is to consider the agenda for its regular session to be held from 15 to 26 June.

Mira Seth (India), Chairman of the UNICEF Executive Board, in her opening statement, drew attention to the problem caused by the rising price of vaccines, noting that the subject would be discussed during the Board's June session. Today's world was full of opportunities and dangers, she continued, and it was a challenge for UNICEF to play its crucial role of keeping the focus of the world on the betterment of the lives of children and women.

Among other questions recommended for inclusion on the Board's agenda are: UNICEF's increasing response to emergency situations, the agency's intervention as a mediator for children in armed conflicts, a broader concept of women's health concerns, and UNICEF's recent efforts to assess needs for assistance to women and children in Eastern Europe.

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